

He's a man who has truly used his talents and abilities, particularly his legal expertise, to benefit the people in his community and across Arkansas. He has made life better and richer for all—like me—who were lucky enough to call him a friend. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to Sam Boyce for his tireless service to the people of Arkansas and the United States.

HONORING INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL, THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, 2002

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, which was named the 2002 Large Business of the Year from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Having served its community with steadfast dedication for over 25 years, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital is well deserving of this recognition. Since 1977, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has been devoted to providing quality health care services in the most customer-friendly service environment possible.

In 2002 the hospital implemented its "Service Excellence—Straight From the Heart" focus to provide all staff, volunteers, and physicians additional tools to meet and exceed the service expectations of their patients. This new service campaign produced fantastic results, with inpatient and outpatient satisfaction increasing substantially.

In the interest of promoting health and wellness, the hospital regularly offers free blood pressure screenings and each fall provides an opportunity for community members to receive flu shots. Health fairs and free health screenings are frequently offered as well. Through these activities, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has clearly established itself as a prominent and vital member of the Northern Virginia business and health care communities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and its staff for their many achievements, and wish them continued success in the future.

NAGORNO KARABAKH 15TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today to extend my congratulations to the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, who are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Karabakh Movement for Independence. On February 20, 1988, the Legislature of Nagorno Karabakh, officially petitioned the then-Soviet Union to reunite with their ethnic compatriots in Armenia. The people

of Nagorno Karabakh struggled bravely and selflessly in the face of tremendous institutionalized violence and oppression orchestrated by succeeding totalitarian governments. Despite years of ethnic cleansing, forced economic discrimination and state-sponsored violence and intimidation, residents of Nagorno Karabakh, 96 percent of whom are Armenian, never strayed in their struggle for independence. It wasn't until the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war that they were to get their wish, but not without cost. Armed conflict engulfed the region in the early 1990s, but a fragile peace has not taken hold.

It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to take this historic opportunity, inspired by the anniversary of their most recent struggle to live in freedom and the free and transparent elections they have held since 1996, to support this fledgling democracy. The people of Nagorno Karabakh are to be congratulated for their perseverance and resolve in their struggle for self-determination on this 15th anniversary. I hope that this Congress will continue to assist them in the continued development of their new democracy, which serves as a beacon of hope to oppressed people seeking democracy around the globe.

NATIONAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATIONS WEEK

### HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce to my colleagues a resolution establishing a National Visiting Nurse Associations Week. Serving communities around the country for over 120 years, congressional recognition and gratitude for these nonprofit home health agencies is long over due. Currently, they are composed of 500 different associations and care for over 4,000,000 patients each year, many of whom are chronically ill and unable to pay medical expenses.

In a country crippled with staggering health care and medical costs, the Visiting Nurse Association continually and successfully works to achieve its mission of cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services. They are a leading provider of mass immunizations in the Medicare program and constitute over 50 percent of all Medicaid home health admissions. The association relies heavily upon volunteer nurses and reinvests any budget surplus into charity care, adult day care centers, wellness clinics, Meals-on-Wheels, and immunization programs.

This resolution would designate the second full week in February as National Visiting Nurse Associations Week in order to increase public awareness of the charity-based organization. They unquestionably deserve recognition for their noble services and by establishing this resolution Congress would support the continuation of their mission.

I am proud to recognize these invaluable contributions of our VNA's by cosponsoring this legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, CHAPTER 307, ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Chapter 307 of St. Joseph, Missouri on this, their 50th Anniversary.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees is dedicated to protecting the earned retirement benefits of Federal employees, retirees and their survivors. The organization was founded in 1921 by fourteen Federal employees and has grown over the years to more than 400,000 Federal and Postal employees, retirees, spouses and survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chapter 307 for their accomplishments with the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and in congratulating them on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE MOUNT VERNON VOICE, THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, 2002

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Mount Vernon Voice, which has recently been named the 2002 New Business of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

The Voice, founded by Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt, is a weekly newspaper dedicated to providing complete community coverage of the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts and the City of Alexandria. Having celebrated its one-year anniversary in January 2003, the Mount Vernon Voice has already proven to be a good neighbor and an invaluable member of its community.

Being the only newspaper located in the community, it serves and is staffed by residents of the area. Additionally, the Voice is proud to sponsor numerous community events and organizations, including Mount Vernon Community Day, the Mount Vernon Orchestra, Lee District Nights, educational forums on local public schools, the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival, the Animal Welfare League's Canine games, and many more community functions.

Located in the heart of the 11th District of Virginia, the Mount Vernon Voice has established itself as a vital member of the Northern Virginia community.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Vernon Voice and its staff for their many achievements, and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT A PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to present posthumously a Presidential Citizens Medal to Frederick Douglass, in recognition of his achievements in civil rights and service to the nation.

Abolitionist, editor, orator, reformer, and civil rights activist, Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential African-American leaders of the 19th century. The fourth of seven children born to a field hand in Talbot County, MD, Frederick Douglass escaped slavery with great adversity to become a forefather in civil and women's rights.

Throughout his extraordinary life, Frederick Douglass gained international prominence for his lecturing and autobiographical writings, in which he detailed the callousness of slavery. However, his notoriety was largely attributed to the founding of the North Star, a weekly newspaper that not only spoke out against slavery and oppression, but also served as a station on the Underground Railroad.

Douglass' civil rights achievements were also highlighted by a successful political career. As a staunch Republican, Douglass served as an advisor to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo by President Ulysses S. Grant, was appointed U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and was named Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in 1881 by President James L. Garfield, all of which were firsts for African Americans.

My Speaker, for these achievements and many others, which are too numerous to name, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and the subsequent letter to the President urging him to posthumously present a Presidential Citizens Medal in honor of Frederick Douglass.

**FEBRUARY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH**

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Meadow Elementary in the Baldwin Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for February 2003. Mrs. Joan M. Flatley is the Principal at Meadow School, Ms. Cora Ianuario is Assistant Principal, and Dr. Kathy Weiss is the Superintendent of Schools in the Baldwin Union Free School District. The school has 750 students in grades Kindergarten through 5.

The Meadow Elementary School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education

through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children.

The new Character Education Program and the school's determination to create a caring environment for everyone shows the strong commitment Meadow Elementary has to developing student character. Each month Meadow students and staff focus on different character traits, and are rewarded for efforts to achieving the month's traits. The Program emphasizes traits that students should strive for, such as: responsibility, cooperation, respect, generosity, perseverance, acceptance/tolerance, honesty, compassion, fairness, and self-discipline.

The Meadow School has many wonderful programs designed to ensure each child receives individual attention. The special education program is unique to the school. All students in the district, in grades Kindergarten through 5, requiring special education go to Meadow. Currently, there are 80 students in the program. Also, the English as a Second Language program helps 30 students every day conquer their fears and language barriers.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Meadow Elementary School and I am proud to name them school of the month for February.

**CONGRATULATING COACH ROBERT CAPELLO ON HIS 800TH CAREER VICTORY**

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the remarkably successful coaching career of Robert Capello, the long-time coach for Edcouch-Elsa High School in my congressional district.

Coach Capello recently celebrated his 800th career victory, making him the only Hispanic high school basketball coach in the Nation with 800 victories. Even more remarkable, Coach Capello boasts a 69 percent victory percentage over his 36-year career at the helm of the Edcouch-Elsa Yellowjackets. His great success over the years is evidenced not only by that career victory milestone but by the many championships his teams have won. The Edcouch-Elsa Basketball Team has been District Champions for 11 of the past 19 years. They have played in the Texas State playoffs in 19 of the past 21 years. They are the first school in the Rio Grande Valley to send four players to the Texas High School Coaches Association South All Star games.

Robert Capello is not only an excellent basketball coach, he has also been an extraordinary role model and mentor to hundreds of boys and girls who have graduated from Edcouch-Elsa High School over the years. He inspires his athletes to excel both on the court and in the classroom, and has encouraged all students at Edcouch-Elsa to reach their fullest potential by pursuing a college education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Coach Robert Capello for his 800th career basketball victory, and for his 36 years of inspirational leadership and caring commitment to the students of Edcouch-Elsa High School.

HONORING FRANK MEEKS AS THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, 2002

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Meeks, who has recently been named the Chamber Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Meeks earned a degree in political science and English from the University of Southern Mississippi, with the goal of attending law school. In order to help defray the cost of continuing his education, he became a delivery boy for Domino's Pizza in 1979. Within a short amount of time, Mr. Meeks became manager of the store, and decided to stay with Domino's.

In December 1980, Mr. Meeks took 2 years off from Domino's Pizza and served as a congressional aide for Senator TRENT LOTT, then a Member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Meeks continued to earn extra money by assisting Domino's Pizza in opening up new stores in the Virginia area. After 2 years with Mr. LOTT, Mr. Meeks decided to return to Domino's and was awarded the franchise for Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. Mr. Meeks opened his first store in July 1983 in Alexandria, Virginia. Today, Frank Meeks oversees the operation of fifty-nine Domino's Pizza stores in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Mr. Meek's franchise, Domino's Pizza Team Washington, continues to be one of the top franchises in Domino's Pizza, Inc.

Under Mr. Meek's leadership, Team Washington has been active in supporting area schools. Team Washington has generously contributed to the post prom and after graduation parties in Fairfax County, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland. In addition, Team Washington has also contributed to the Washington's Children's National Medical Center, Food and Friends, Mount Vernon High School, and numerous other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Frank Meeks. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring him for all of his success and dedication to his work and the community.

**TRIBUTE TO DELOISE JONES**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Deloise Jones. Mrs. Jones is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. She earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Tougaloo College. She then went on to earn a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Jackson State University.